

1 bands with the light re-emitted by the portion of the skin to generate digital images
2 comprising digital signals whose values are a function of the condition of the region of
3 interest of the skin; and
4 providing the digital images to a processor, wherein the processor:
5 segments the digital image by generating a single segmentation mask defining the boundary of the
6 region of interest for each image from the digital image in the blue spectral band, without
7 operator intervention;
8 automatically computes at least one estimated value for each digital image at each spectral band
9 which is a function of a characteristic of the portion of the region of interest determined by
10 the segmentation mask, without operator intervention;
11 characterizes the condition of the skin as malignant or benign based on the estimated values, without
12 operator intervention; and
13 outputs the characterization of the condition of the skin.

14 Add the following new claims

15 **REMARKS**

16 A CPA is filed along with this preliminary amendment.
17 Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendment is requested.
18 Applicant has requested an interview with Examiner in the week of Aug. 21, 2000, or the week
19 following. Applicant expects to communicate a draft amendment for Examiners review before
20 this meeting